**Disability Inclusion and Safeguarding Bill 2024 - Factsheet**

**June 2024**

**Easy Read Text Only**

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# How to use this factsheet

The Tasmanian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet wrote this factsheet.

When you see the word ‘we’, it means the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

We wrote this factsheet in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

We wrote some hard words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and **darker**.

We explain what the hard words mean.

You can ask for help to read this factsheet.

You could ask a friend, family member, support person or advocate.

# What is this Factsheet about?

The Tasmanian Government is making a new **Act**.

An **Act** is a law.

The Act is called the Disability Inclusion and Safeguarding Act.

The draft of the Act is called a Bill.

In this factsheet we tell you about the Act.

# What is the Act?

The new Act will be called the Disability Inclusion and Safeguarding Act.

These are the words that describe the Act and what it is trying to do:

“An Act to **advance and safeguard the human rights** of people with disability and to advance the **full and effective inclusion** of people with disability in the Tasmanian Community”.

This means the Act will make your human rights stronger.

It will make sure you can take part in your community and that Tasmania will be a safer place for people with disability.

The Bill is written in a way that explains disability using a **Social Model of disability**.

The **Social Model of disability** says that people may be disabled by barriers in society, such as buildings not having a ramp or accessible toilets, or people’s attitudes, like assuming people with disability can not do certain things because of their disability.

The Bill is about how we can remove these barriers.

When barriers are removed, people with disability can be independent and equal in society.

The Bill is also based on the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and **Australia’s Disability Strategy**.

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is an agreement that sets out what countries have to do to make sure that people with disability have the human rights as everybody else.

**Australia’s Disability Strategy** is a plan that sets out what Australia is doing to make sure that people with disability have the same human rights as everybody else.

# Disability Inclusion Planning

The Act sets out ways the Tasmanian Government will make Tasmania a more **inclusive** place to live.

**inclusive** means everyone can take part.

The Act says the Government must write a Tasmanian **Disability Inclusion Plan**.

The **Disability Inclusion Plan** will say how the Government will make Tasmania more inclusive.

Each part of Government must have its own **Disability Inclusion Action Plan**.

A **Disability Inclusion Action Plan** will say how they will make their services more inclusive.

The Government must consult people with disability about important projects and changes and include people with disability in an equal way when they consult the Tasmanian Community.

# Tasmanian Disability Commissioner

The Bill says that we will set up a Disability Inclusion Commissioner.

We call them the Commissioner for short.

The Tasmanian Disability Commissioner’s job is to help people with disability to be:

* safe
* healthy
* part of the community

They will make sure people get good supports and services.

The Act says the Commissioner has certain **powers** to do their job.

**powers** are what they can and are allowed to do.

The Act says the Commissioner should be a person with disability.

# Disability Inclusion Advisory Council

The Bill says the Government will have a group called the Disability Inclusion Advisory Council.

The Council will:

* give advice to the Minister and the Commissioner about disability inclusion
* give advice about how to make Tasmania safer for people with disability.

Most of the Advisory Council must be people with disability.

# A Community Visitor Scheme

The Bill says that a **Community Visitor** Scheme can be set up in the future.

A **Community Visitor** can visit people with disability where they live. They will look and listen to them about their safety and human rights.

# The Senior Practitioner and Regulation of Restricted Practices

Sometimes a disability service provider may need to do something that stops a person with disability from doing something they want to do.

This is called a **restrictive practice.**

A **restrictive practice** is used to stop a person with disability from hurting themselves or others. For example:

* when a door or a gate is locked
* when you can’t watch the television whenever you want.

Restrictive practices should only happen:

* to keep a person with disability or other people safe from harm
* when there is no other choice
* if an expert like the **Senior Practitioner** says it is ok.

The **Senior Practitioner** has a job to protect your rights if you have **restrictions** placed on you.

The Bill makes changes to when restrictive practises are allowed.

These changes will make sure your rights are protected and you are safe.

# Funding

This part of the Bill is about how the Tasmanian Government will give funding to things that fit in with the Act.

These are things like:

* Disability Advocacy organisations
* Research
* Activities which will help people with disability to join in making the Act work.

# What Happens Next:

**The Minister** for Disability Services will take the Bill to the **Tasmanian Parliament.**

**The Minister** for Disability Services is Jo Palmer.

**The Tasmanian Parliament** is where elected members of Government talk about new laws and vote on new laws.

Members of Parliament will vote on the Bill.

If parliament agrees the Bill will become an Act

**Do you have Questions:**

You can ask for help to read this factsheet.

You could ask a friend, family member, support person or advocate.

If you still have questions please email us:

disabilityinclusionbill@dpac.tas.gov.au

or phone 1800 431 211.